



**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
March 9, 2018**

RB 5354 AAC SNAPPING TURTLES AND RED-EARED SLIDER TURTLES.

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

To: Sen. Ted Kennedy Jr., Sen. Craig Miner, Rep. Mike Demicco, Chairmen;
And Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

Rivers Alliance strongly supports this bill. Thank you, thank you for raising it. We have testified on behalf of snapping turtles in the past. They are ugly, for sure, but they scavenge the bottom of ponds and streams, helping to keep water clean. We've had some very dry summers recently, and these poor turtles struggle to get across roads and find a place to lay their eggs, often following a route they've used for decades. They are not monsters. They deserve the same protection as all other wildlife. The red-eared sliders suffer from the opposite problem -- they're too cute. Their popularity as pets accounts for their arrival in Connecticut, and they are considered nuisance invaders. Sad.

Thank you for your attention to these little constituents who have no voice. .

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Miner".

Margaret Miner,
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